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Title: Need to maintain Tarakeswar temple in West Bengal.

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to raise an issue relating to my parliamentary constituency in 'Zero Hour'.

Tarakeswar Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is an important place of pilgrimage which was built in 17th Century in Tarakeswar, West Bengal. This is one of the oldest temples in India. It records maximum crowd on the Holy Day of Mahashivratri and also in the month of Shravana. Being a very ancient religious place of Lord Shiva, Tarakeswar is a major pilgrimage. The Dudhpukur Tank in the north of the Temple, believed to fulfil the prayers of those who take a dip in it, needs to be cleaned and beautified.

Though it is well connected by rail, there is a huge demand from public to operate more trains during the festival. In the month of Shravana, people come to Tarakeswar Temple by walk from Kolkata.

Hence, I request the Ministry of Culture to take this matter into consideration and allocate more funds for repair of the basic and necessary facilities at this temple as it is a main source of pilgrimage and tourism.

Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Aparupa Poddar.